Information for Parents and Caregivers

What is descriptive feedback?



Why is descriptive feedback from teachers so valuable?

Descriptive feedback is the written comments you will see on your child's report card. Descriptive feedback is valuable for all students in all grades, from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

In Grades K- 9, your child may get a "Proficient" in math and a "Developing" in English. At first glance, you might assume that your child is "good" at math and "bad" at English. But this isn't the case. All students have both strengths and areas they are still working on.

In Grades 10-12, letter grades and percentages alone won't provide the whole picture of who they are as a learner. This is where descriptive feedback comes in. Teachers will give you written feedback that clearly explains what your child can do. It will also tell you what your child needs to work on to move forward in their learning.

Descriptive feedback:

- tells you what your child can do
- tells you what your child needs to work on
- tells you how your child interacts in the classroom
- provides strategies to help your child further their learning



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Information about what your child can do

Learning happens at different speeds for different students. Your child's report card will clearly explain to you what your child can do and what they need to work on in each of their areas of learning. Descriptive feedback is the short, written comments from the teacher that explain your child's current learning strengths and classroom behaviour.



Information about your child's work habits and behaviour

Your child's marks (on the proficiency scale, or letter grades and percentages) reflect their learning in each area. The written comments include information on your child's work habits and behaviours.

Grading and reporting are not disciplinary tools. For example, students can't lose 10% of their grade for not bringing gym clothes to class, and they can't have marks taken away as a punishment for being late.

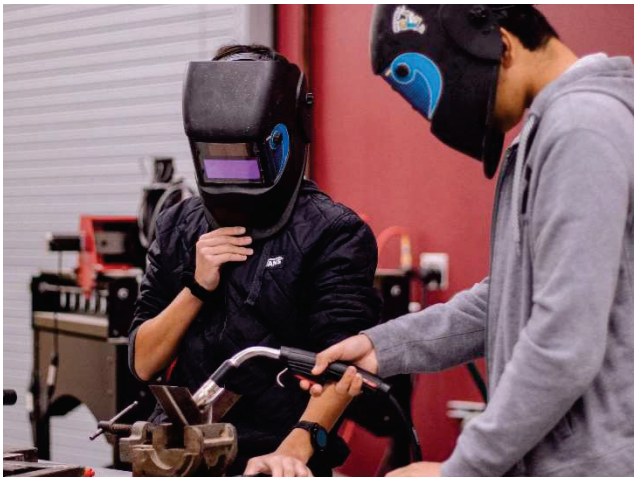
But behaviour in school is still important. If a student does not attend or participate in class, it will be difficult for teachers to assess their learning.



Information about what your child needs to work on

The information in your child's report card shouldn't come as a surprise. Ideally, before you receive a report card, you should hear from your child's teacher about any areas that need to improve, whether in their learning or their behaviour

But the report card will also provide written information about what your child can do and areas they need to work on. The teacher may describe ways that you can support your child at home. They may also explain how your child is being supported in class to improve and move forward in their learning.



Contact us at: student.reporting@gov.bc.ca